Government of Saskatchewan

Annual Report 1987 - 1988

Saskatchewan Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat

for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1988

Minister
The Honourable Grant Hodgins

Saskatchewan
Indian and Native Affairs
Secretariat

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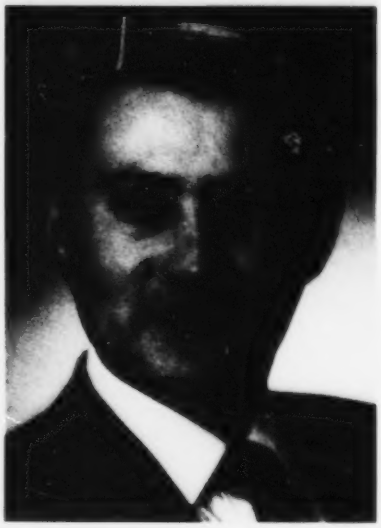
Letters of Transmittal

The Honourable Sylvia Fedoruk
Lieutenant Governor
Province of Saskatchewan



May It Please Your Honour:

I respectfully submit the Annual Report of the Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1988.

Grant Hodgins
Minister of Indian and
Native Affairs

The Honourable Grant Hodgins
Minister of Indian and
Native Affairs

Dear Sir:

I have the honour of submitting the Annual Report of the Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat for the year ending March 31, 1988.

Ronald T. Scrimshaw
Acting Secretary
Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat

Secretary's Introduction

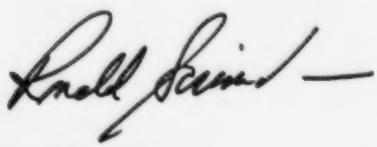
I am pleased to submit the fifth annual report for Indian and Native Affairs.

On January 15, 1988, the Premier announced the re-creation of an autonomous Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat under the Honourable Grant Hodgins. This agency is the successor of the Indian and Native Affairs Branch of the Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment. From January to the end of the 1987-88 fiscal year, the focus was on policy and budget planning for the 1988-89 fiscal year, as well as the examination of priorities and internal restructuring in order to facilitate a stand-alone unit.

Our future focus will continue to emphasize the policy and coordination role of the Secretariat as well as economic development, training and employment, lands and resources, and social development matters.

We will continue to work cooperatively within government and with aboriginal individuals, businesses, institutions and associations to ensure that Saskatchewan's Native citizens enjoy the same benefits and opportunities as do the non-Native population. We encourage the Native community, the private sector, and all levels of government to work with us to address the complex issues facing many of the Province's aboriginal peoples.

I am grateful to the dedicated staff of the Secretariat for their support and guidance and look forward to working with them in addressing the challenges ahead.



Ronald T. Scrimshaw
Acting Secretary

Introduction

The Saskatchewan Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat was established January 15, 1988 by an Order-in-Council pursuant to the **Government Organization Act.** The Secretariat serves as a contact point for aboriginal issues within the provincial government. As well, it has the prime mandate for managing the relationship between the Government of Saskatchewan and Indian and Native peoples.

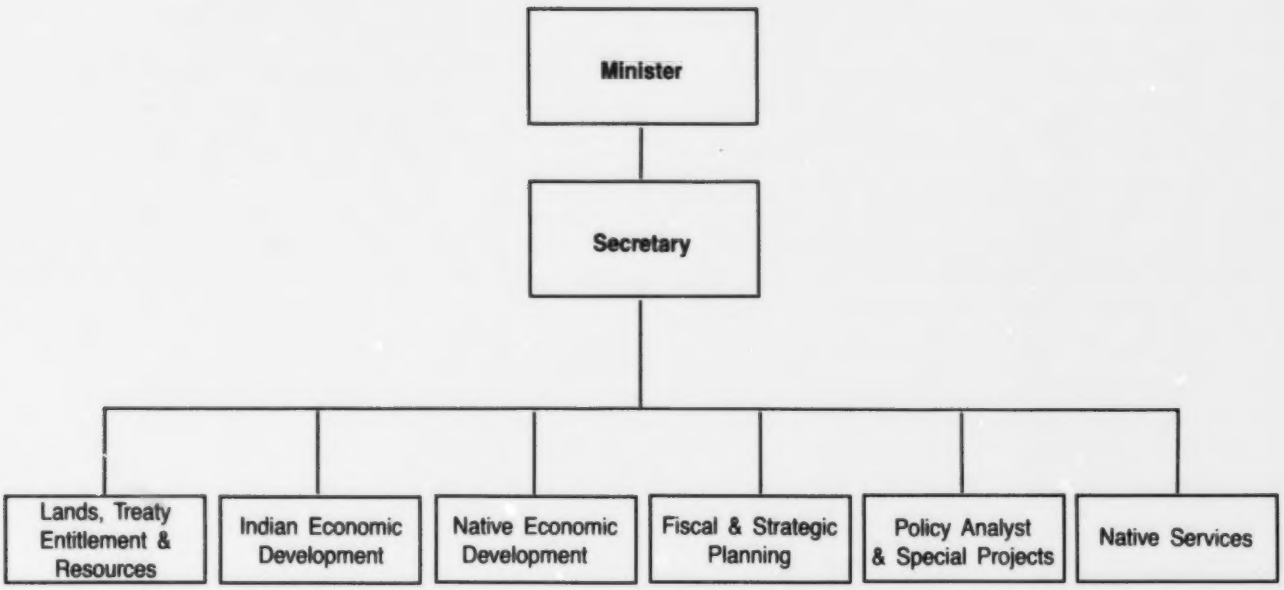
The Secretariat plays a lead role in developing, promoting and implementing programs (both Native-specific and universal) and policies that are sensitive to the special needs of Saskatchewan's Native citizens.

A major function of the Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat is the coordination of departmental budget submissions into a Native package of programs for the government estimates preparation process. This Native package enables the government to ensure that its overall priorities respecting aboriginal programs are met in the budgeting process.

Line departments maintain responsibility for the delivery of their Native-specific programs. However, in addition to maintaining an overview of specific departmental initiatives, the Secretariat has responsibility for the Indian Economic Development Program, the Native Career Development Program, the Special Agricultural and Rural Development Program (Special ARDA) and core funding.

The Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat takes the lead within the government in negotiations and policy development directed to meeting treaty land entitlement obligations. The Secretariat performs a similar function in addressing other Indian or Metis land or resource issues.

Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat
Organization Chart
March 31, 1988



Native Career Development Program

The Native Career Development Program works with employers to identify jobs for which Native workers can be specifically trained. The employer makes a firm commitment to hire the trainees when the training is complete. Program staff work out the details of the training with each employer. The focus is "competency based training".

Matching available people to available jobs is done through an orientation and selection process which involves the employer, the prospective employee and relevant resource people made available through the program. The employer makes the final selection.

Training packages are the key to the Native Career Development Program. To ensure a direct connection between job requirements and trainee potential, the branch ensures that the training package is practical, detailed and straight forward. The employer and trainee need to understand that training plan before it is started. The training package is designed to provide individualized tutoring as required.

The training package provides participants with job skills required for the chosen positions. The employer, assisted by program staff, determines what each job requires as "entry level" skills and knowledge. Again, the training package is prepared jointly and could include formal training, on-the-job training and/or individual tutoring. A monitoring process designed to determine the progress of each trainee, is included.

When the trainee has acquired all the knowledge and skills identified in the training plan, he or she becomes a full-time permanent employee of the company.

The program's flexible approach to the variety of employer training requirements is one of the factors which sets the NCDP apart from other available training options. In addition, program staff assist employers in recruiting prospective trainees and in providing counselling or other special assistance to trainees as necessary to ensure successful completion of the "training-to-employment" plan.

Other components of the program which relate to assisting Native clients in finding employment or increasing employment-related skills have been reorganized and expanded into what is called "Employment Enhancement Training". This training takes the form of seminars, which will assist clients in securing employment or training related to economic development and entrepreneurial initiatives.

Special Agricultural and Rural Development Agreement

The Honourable Grant Schmidt and the federal Minister Responsible for the Department of Regional Industrial Expansion signed a two-year extension to the Special Agricultural and Rural Development Agreement (Special ARDA) – which will now expire March 31, 1989.

Special ARDA provides financial assistance to people of Indian ancestry for the purposes of establishing small business enterprises, expanding agricultural and other primary resource operations and training leading to employment.

Purpose of Special ARDA
The agreement recognizes that the income levels and standard of living of many people in rural areas of the province, particularly those of Indian ancestry, are unreasonably low, that the opportunities for their improvement need to be increased, and that complex and varied problems of social and economic development exist in such rural areas.

It is recognized that, while the agreement will not address all of these problems and circumstances, it will enable rural residents, particularly those of Indian ancestry, to identify and develop selected economic and employment opportunities.

Projects are assessed on the extent to which they provide people of Indian ancestry with entrepreneurial involvement, managerial or career development opportunities, training opportunities, general employment and income.

Administration of the Program
Indian and Native Affairs has overall responsibility on behalf of the province for delivery of the Special ARDA program to Metis and Non-status Indians. The federal departments of Indian and Northern Affairs, Canada Employment and Immigration, and Regional Industrial Expansion are responsible for delivery of Special ARDA to Status Indians.

Eligibility
The program is available to people of Indian ancestry with a primary focus on business and employment related development. Applicants require at least 10 per cent equity for undertaking a business enterprise with training projects linked to employment.

Projects Approved
The two year extension signed in August, 1987, has already approved:

33 Small Business projects
7 Primary Resource Development Projects
2 Training Projects

Total 42 projects to March 31, 1988.

Through Special ARDA's support for business and training development, it is estimated 77 jobs will be created and 366 training positions assisted.

Provincial Indian Economic Development Program

Fiscal year 1987-88 represents the fifth year of operation of the Provincial Indian Economic Development Program. This program was established to assist Indian people at the community level become more economically self-sufficient. Through this program, grants are provided as "seed money" to initiate viable Indian business.

The four major objectives of the program are as follows:

- To create permanent and meaningful jobs for Indian people which will enable them to participate and contribute to local economies and the provincial economy as a whole.
- To enable Indian people to become more economically self-sufficient through the establishment of viable business controlled and staffed by Indian people.
- To focus on job creation in only the most viable sectors, such as small business, resource development and tourism.
- To press for a balanced and coordinated approach to Indian economic development with other provincial and federal programs.

Administration of the Program
Indian and Native Affairs has overall administrative and fiscal responsibility for the Provincial Indian Economic Development Program. Applications are assessed in terms of viability, funding sources and other criteria. Applications which meet the criteria are forwarded to the Indian Advisory Board for review and funding consideration. Ministerial and/or Order-in-Council approval is required under legislation before grants can be released.

Eligibility
Only Status Indian people are eligible for grants under this program. Accordingly, grants can be made to Status Indian individuals, Indian bands, districts and Indian economic development institutions. While the program is aimed primarily at business development at the reserve level, Status Indian projects in urban centres are also funded.

Role of Federal Government
Although the program provides direct financial support to Indian people in the area of economic development, provincial involvement does not diminish the role of the federal government, which has legislative responsibility for Status Indian people. Rather, the provincial program serves to complement federal economic development and job creation initiatives in concert with overall economic development priorities and opportunities in Saskatchewan.

Types of Projects
During the 1987-88 fiscal year, 57 grants were disbursed under the Provincial Indian Economic Development Program at a total expenditure level of $987,381. Thirty-one grants or 55 per cent of the total were in the small business sector. This includes grants for convenience stores, gas bars, arts and crafts, restaurants, billiard halls and beauty salons.

	Number of Projects	Funding	Percentage
Small Business	31	$545,585	55%
Construction/ Industrial	11	201,900	21%
Agriculture	7	72,396	7%
Studies	3	120,000	12%
Manufacturing	5	47,500	5%
Total	57	$987,381	100%

A grant was provided to the Muskeg Lake Band for road construction and maintenance; grant funds assisted the Beardy's and Okemasis Band for the purchase of a service station restaurant in Duck Lake. Similarly, a grant was made to the Onion Lake Band to assist in the development of a truck stop on their reserve.

The program funded three studies which accounted for 12 per cent of total expenditures. These studies encompassed feasibility and market analysis as well as development costs related to the establishment of actual businesses.

Overview

Provincial funding has also served as a catalyst in obtaining $2.1 million from the federal government, financial institutions and other resources. The 57 projects funded during the fiscal year will create 215 jobs. In addition to job creation, these projects provide a base to train and employ Indian people in the private sector.

Indian Field Services

The Indian field officers play an essential role in the delivery of the Provincial Indian Economic Development Program. Field officers receive business applications and assess their viability under established program criteria. Consultation is also undertaken with financial institutions and other government agencies to secure funding commitments for business proposals. Field officers are also responsible for the monitoring and follow-up of projects which have received provincial funding under the program.

In addition to economic development, field officers have an important liaison role with the Indian people at the provincial, district, band and individual level on a wide range of issues such as health services, child care, hunting and fishing rights, etc. Field officers also provide information on new provincial programs and services. Field officers are located in Saskatoon, Qu'Appelle and Kamsack.

Lands,Treaty Land Entitlement and Resources

The Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat is the lead provincial agency responsible for dealing with Indian treaty land entitlement. Under the terms of the treaties, Saskatchewan bands were entitled to receive specific quantities of land based on their populations. In some cases, the full amount of land owing was not provided to the bands. The Province, under paragraph 10 of the **Natural Resources Transfer Agreement, 1930,** has a legal obligation to provide unoccupied Crown land to meet the unfulfilled federal treaty land entitlement obligations. Saskatchewan, by policy, has agreed to negotiate the transfer of occupied Crown land to fulfill its paragraph 10 obligations, subject to the satisfaction of provincial and third party interests.

From January 15 to March 31, 1988, work progressed on a number of entitlement selections. The English River Band's Cree Lake selection and the Flying Dust Band's Jarvis Lake selection received Cabinet approval in principle to be transferred to reserve status. Negotiations aimed at finalizing draft transfer documentation on the Lucky Man Band's entitlement were also conducted.

The Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat hosted a meeting of senior officials from Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario to discuss common issues concerning treaty land entitlement and other Indian land claims. Meetings with federal officials were also held to seek improved means to transfer land to fulfill the federal government's treaty obligations.

Resources and Land Use Issues
The Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat co-ordinates the provincial government's involvement in specific claims and other land and resource issues involving Indian and Metis people. Treaty issues are also addressed by the Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat, along with issues related to the aboriginal aim of self government.